

Medication Assistance Activity Sheet: Transdermal Medication

MAP Level 2 & 3: Medication Assistance Activity Sheet

This activity sheet guides unregulated health care providers when assisting with transdermal medication.


check	Activity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The First Medication Safety Check is done by the regulated health care provider who verifies the completeness and appropriateness of the prescriber's order (e.g., dispensing pharmacy or nurse)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduce yourself and review the client's care plan/medication record for instructions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform hand hygiene and gather the required supplies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transdermal medication patch • non-sterile gloves • facial tissues • warm water or saline and gauze pads or face cloth for cleaning as directed on care plan • other items as per care plan: e.g., other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), marker, biohazard disposal, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform the Second Medication Safety Check : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check for allergies and alerts on the medication label and care plan/medication record • check the expiry date and/or beyond use date of the medication • check & compare the medication rights* on the medication label and care plan/medication record • report any discrepancies or incorrect/unclear information to the supervisor immediately; do not proceed until concerns are resolved
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare the medication according to instructions on the care plan/medication record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perform hand hygiene • check that the medication package is intact, and that the patch is not torn/damaged, dried out or discoloured • open the package and prepare the patch for application, ensuring the date and time has been written on the edge of the patch or the external label to apply to the patch
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform the Third Medication Safety Check : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the client using two (2) unique client identifiers • explain the activity to the client • check the medication rights* comparing the medication label and care plan/medication record
<p>* Medication rights: right client, right medication, right time, right dose, right route, right documentation, right of refusal. Unregulated health care providers are not required to know the "right reason" when providing medication assistance as directions on the care plan are followed.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide MAP Level 2 or 3 assistance as per the care plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perform hand hygiene • don non-sterile gloves and other PPE as required • position the client for medication assistance (e.g., client seated with skin area exposed) • as directed in the care plan: REMOVE the existing patch, fold sticky sides together and discard as instructed (e.g., biohazard or disposal container), then wash and dry the area. • as directed in the care plan: Follow directions for site rotation to apply a new patch. Select a hairless skin area that does not have any scars, irritated skin or is in a skin fold. Wash and dry the area. • apply the new patch. Remove the backing from the patch and apply to the prepared area; follow any additional manufacturer's instructions (e.g., press edges gently, hold hand over patch for 10 seconds)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discard used supplies and clean reusable equipment (if used) • perform hand hygiene • complete documentation • report observations as instructed on the care plan, or issues/concerns to the supervisor



Seniors Health & Continuing Care



Tips

Removing a transdermal patch	Applying a transdermal patch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease the edges of the patch off the skin by gently pressing on the centre of the patch • Use your fingers to pull the skin away from the patch rather than pulling on the patch as this reduces skin injury • Once the patch is removed, fold it in half and then dispose of as directed in the care plan (e.g., biohazard) to reduce risk of others coming into contact with the medication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medicated patches should NOT be flushed down the toilet <p>Note: It is important to ensure the existing patch is removed before applying a new one, to prevent medication from being absorbed from two sites that could injure the client.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark the date and time the patch is applied to the edge of the patch or a label, before applying the patch on the client <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do not write on the body of the patch as it may damage the patch • To prevent skin breakdown and ensure the medication is absorbed properly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do not apply patches to the same area. The care plan should direct how to rotate sites for patch application. ○ Do not place patches on skin folds, scars, or on irritated skin ○ Ensure the patch is flat to the skin • Avoid touching the medicated area of the patch to prevent absorbing any medication 

References:

- Alberta Health & Wellness (2013). *Health Care Aide Provincial Curriculum: Course 6-Module 1: Assisting with Medication Delivery*
- Transdermal Patch Application (2022, May 19). *Lippincott Procedures*. <https://procedures-lww-com.ahs.idm.oclc.org/lnp/home.do?setCookie=2948>

Note: When providing **MAP Level 1** (reminder), the unregulated health care provider does not handle or prepare medication for the client. Therefore, they do not perform the medication rights or perform safety checks.